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LETTER DATED 28 JUNE 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan on the latest Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan.

I should be grateful if your would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hassan A. HASSANOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

290693

Annex

[Original: Russian]

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan

On 28 June 1993, subdivisions of the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia, after fierce fighting in which combat planes, tanks and artillery took part, occupied the town of Agdere and surrounding villages. The fighting which began on 12 June with a view to the capture of Agdam is continuing and already a score of villages have been occupied, many of which have been burned and razed. Thousands of peaceful inhabitants are fleeing the area of hostilities and are making for the interior of the Republic.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic regards this most recent escalation of military activity as a further example of the naked aggression perpetrated by the Republic of Armenia against Azerbaijan.

These events are taking place just as the world community - the United Nations, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the President of the Minsk Conference and individual Governments - are making an effort to enable the interrupted peace process to resume.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic considers that the intention of the aggressor, in addition to annexing further territory, is to destabilize the political situation inside the Republic, where the prospect of emergence from the crisis and warding off the danger of civil war was just beginning to be seen.

It is obvious that the leaders of the Republic of Armenia, by triggering a further escalation, are endeavouring to provoke a retaliatory action by Azerbaijan, which would mean that the possibility of a peaceful settlement of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan would be postponed indefinitely.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic is authorized to state that the Azerbaijani leaders, while warmly welcoming the mediation efforts aimed at a peaceful settlement of the conflict, reserve the right to use all possible means to repel the aggressor, which cynically ignores not only the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our Republic, but also the good will of the world community.

The responsibility for these dangerous developments, which can jeopardize peace and security throughout the region, rests entirely with the militarists in power in the Republic of Armenia.